

Edelweiss Farms, Aurora Oregon

Recipient of the EPA Evergreen Millennium

Award for Pollution Prevention

Fact Sheet



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 10

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EPA recognizes Edelweiss Farms, Aurora, Oregon for environmental excellence and leadership in pollution prevention. Edelweiss is a leader in the egg industry in reducing water and air pollution and in energy conservation.

Edelweiss Farms, founded in 1977, has a long history of minimizing environmental impacts from its operations. Edelweiss produces and processes about 180,000 dozen eggs (about 2 million eggs) per week from about half a million hens. Edelweiss is a recognized industry leader in environmental stewardship.

Pollution Prevention Success

Manure Management.

Edelweiss Farms produces about 10,000 cubic yards of chicken manure per year, enough to cover a football field 6 feet in manure. On this scale poorly managed chicken manure has the potential to create large impact on local water systems and air quality.

Through careful and conscientious management Edelweiss has eliminated all impacts to ground or surface water. State of the art manure and air quality management systems have been established. The manure is kept indoors and as dry as possible through careful management of the water system. The dry manure produces less odor and is more marketable.

About 40% of the manure is blended with recycled yard waste and sold as a organic fertilizer. Edelweiss is working to develop an

integrated composting program to further enhance the benefits of manure as an organic soil amendment. The remaining 60% of the manure is sold for appropriate agricultural applications.

Wastewater

Edelweiss has lead the development of a wastewater treatment system for egg wash water. The system utilizes aeration, bio-augmentation and clarifiers to treat wastewater. Benefits of the system include:

- Biological oxygen demand (BOD) is reduced from 22,000 to 33 mg/liter
- Odors are virtually eliminated
- the wastewater is safe to use to irrigate pastureland

Edelweiss recently began diverting treated wastewater into its composting project which reduces the need to use fresh water for the project.

In order to make it's new composting venture work Edelweiss began a working horse farm in 2000 to utilize used horse bedding for compost. The horse farm generates enough "brown" material to combine with the "green" chicken manure to make for a good composting mix.

Air Quality

Edelweiss has offset carbon dioxide emissions from its operations through planting trees and grass at its facility and strives to further reduce dust and odor from its operations through use of straw bales as filters for exhaust fans.

Additional air quality benefits may come from onsite power generation from manure. This could potentially reduce use of "dirtier" electrical production using an existing resource.

Solid Waste

Edelweiss composts unuseable egg cartons and other suitable material such as straw and yard debris with manure and sold as fertilizer. Both plastic and paper products are baled and recycled.

Energy Consumption.

Edelweiss seeks out opportunities to upgrade to more efficient equipment including efficient fans in laying houses. Edelweiss converted 1,600 fifteen watt incandescent bulbs to five watt

fluorescent bulbs over 10 years ago. The conversation saves about 16,000 watts.

Commitment to Environmental Quality

The management at Edelweiss are continuously seeking-out opportunities for additional pollution prevention measures as detailed earlier in this fact sheet. Management seeks new technology and ideas to integrate new and better methods for improving the environmental and financial performance of the farm. Currently they are evaluating the feasibility of using manure for power onsite power generation.

Environmental Leadership

EPA is recognizing Edelweiss Farms for its longstanding record of environmental leadership. They have consistently sought-out and implemented environmentally friendly changes to their operations.

For more information about Edelweiss Farms' environmental program call Reg Keddle at 503-678-2156.



The Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention

EPA's Evergreen Award recognizes outstanding pollution prevention efforts within all sectors of the greater Pacific Northwest business community.

For more information about EPA Region 10's Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention contact:

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on the WEB at www.epa.gov/r10earth/evergreenaward.htm